

Men's Bible Fellowship

Proverbs 24

1. What are verses 3 and 4 telling us? Does this only refer to the family unit? What wisdom or understanding is meant here? What is meant by established? (See Colossians 2:6-7, Jeremiah 17:7-8.). What are the "precious and pleasant" riches you have received? Read Proverbs 23:24-25. (See Matthew 6:20, 1 Peter 1:3-4 for further understanding.) Can you see the house as a metaphor for something else?
2. Read verses 5 and 6. As we have discovered in our reading up to now, what makes a person wise? According to verse 5, what makes a person strong and how does he increase his strength? (See 2 Samuel 22:33, Psalm 18:32.). What are some ways we can obtain wise counsel? (See Psalm 1:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:16.). Even if we don't "wage war", what are some other examples of times when seeking wise counsel is warranted? What makes someone qualified to be a wise counselor? (Read Titus 2:1-5, Colossians 3:16 NLT.) Why would it be good to seek counsel from more than one person? Ultimately, where should we seek our counsel from? (Isaiah 9:6)
3. Read verse 10. What does it mean by the "day of distress" or "day of adversity"? What does it mean to faint in this day? Can you think of some examples of people in the Bible who "fainted" during their trial? How does God use trials to develop our spiritual character? (See James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5.) Read James 1:12 for more on spiritual character. Is it necessarily a bad thing to have "little strength"? (See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.). Does the Lord expect us to stand in our own strength? (Read Ephesians 6:10-18, Isaiah 40:28-31.)
4. Read verses 11 and 12. What could be meant by delivering those who are "drawn toward death", or "stumbling toward slaughter", from a practical sense? (See James 2:15-16.) How about from the spiritual sense? (Mark 16:15 NLT) What are we doing if we say, "We did not know this"? Is the Lord fooled by this even if we fool ourselves? (See Jeremiah 17:10.) What is the danger in not helping others or in sharing the Gospel? (See James 4:17.) Does this mean that we are obliged in every circumstance in which verse 11 applies? What should be our approach if we are not feeling led by the Spirit?